

We Claim

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1. A system for developing and using a request for transaction framework comprising:

a framework engine configured to enable a market maker to develop a

5 request for transaction for a particular market; and

a request for transaction engine configured to enable an organization within the relevant market to prepare a request for transaction relating to a resource requirement and select a response relating to the resource requirement.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the framework engine is configured to create
10 a market based on manipulated attribute parameters and identify an analysis framework.

3. The system of claim 1, wherein the request for transaction engine comprises:
a request engine;
a response engine; and
15 an analysis engine.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein the request engine is configured to enable an organization to prepare and transmit the request comprising structured attribute information relating to the resource requirement, and wherein the schema of

structured attribute information available to the organization is determined by the market maker using the framework engine.

5. The system of claim 3, wherein the request engine comprises a request for proposal engine and a request for quote engine.

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6. The system of claim 3, wherein the analysis engine enables a plurality of providers to perform a analysis framework on a plurality of requests based on an extensible number of attributes, wherein the analysis framework available to the plurality of providers is determined by the market maker using the framework engine.

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7. The system of claim 3, wherein the response engine enables the plurality of providers to prepare and transmit a plurality of responses to the request.

8. The system of claim 3, wherein the analysis engine enables an organization to perform a analysis framework on a plurality of responses based on an extensible number of attributes, wherein the analysis framework available to the organization is determined by the market maker using the framework engine.

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9. The system of claim 3, wherein:

the organization transmits information to and receives information from the request engine and the analysis engine based on a first language associated with an organization user; and

5 each of the providers transmit information to and receive information from the response engine and the analysis engine based on a second language associated with a provider user.

10. The system of claim 3, wherein:

the organization transmits information to and receives information from the request engine and the analysis engine based on a first currency associated with an organization user; and

each of the providers transmit information to and receive information from the response engine and the analysis engine based on a first currency associated with a provider user.

11. The system of claim 3, wherein:

15 the organization transmits information to and receives information from the request engine and the analysis engine based on a first unit of measure associated with an organization user; and

each of the providers transmit information to and receive information from the response engine and the analysis engine based on a second unit of measure associated with a provider user.

12. A method for developing and using a request for transaction framework comprising the acts:

developing a request for transaction framework that establishes a set of relevant attributes for a particular market;

receiving a request for transaction, wherein an organization in the particular market indicates a resource requirement by indicating a set of values for the set of relevant attributes;

receiving a plurality of responses to the request, wherein a plurality of providers for the particular market develop the plurality of responses by indicating a set of values for the set of relevant attributes; and

determining a selected response by the organization based on the set of values for the set of relevant variables provided in the plurality of responses.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the request comprises structured attribute information relating to a resource requirement.

14. The method of claim 12, further comprising:

analyzing, by the plurality of providers, a plurality of pending requests based on an extensible number of attributes; and

analyzing, by the organization, the plurality of responses based on an extensible number of attributes.

- 5 15. A method for developing an online request for transaction market comprising:
- determining relevant market attributes;
 - selecting relevant existing attributes;
 - selectively creating new attributes;
 - selecting an analysis framework; and
 - 10 developing the online request for transaction market based on the relevant market attributes and the selected analysis framework.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the act of selectively creating a new attribute comprises:

- determining an attribute name;
- 15 determining an attribute data type;
- determining a data entry control type;
- determining a set of attribute constraints;
- determining an attribute analysis framework option; and

developing, based on each of the determined attribute parameters, a new attribute.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the data entry control type comprises one of, a drop down list, a list box, an input box, a combination box, a radio button, and a check box.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the act of providing the attribute constraints comprises providing a set of possible attribute values of a data entry control when the data entry control type comprises one of a drop down list, a list box, a combination box and a radio button.

19. The method of claim 16, wherein the act of providing attribute constraints additionally comprises the act of determining a help object to associate with the new attribute.

20. The method of claim 15, wherein each of the acts is implemented using a graphical user interface.

21. A system for developing and using a request for transaction framework comprising:

framework engine means for enabling a market maker to develop a request for transaction for a particular market; and

request for transaction means for enabling an organization within the relevant market to prepare a request for transaction relating to a resource requirement and select a response relating to the resource requirement.

- 5 22. A computer program product, comprising a computer readable medium having computer code embodied therein for conducting a request for transaction in conjunction with a reverse auction comprising:

10 computer readable program code devices configured as a request for transaction engine to enable an organization to prepare a request for transaction relating to a resource requirement and select a response relating to the resource requirement; and

computer readable program code devices configured as a reverse auction engine to enable the organization to conduct a reverse auction based on the selected response.